



News Release

U.S. Representative Chris Chocola

Second District, Indiana

For Immediate Release
Thursday, July 28, 2005
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Chocola Fights to Lower Cost of Health Care

Votes to make sure health care system is more affordable and available to all

WASHINGTON, DC – Realizing the number one **issue** confronting Hoosier small businesses and families today is rising health care costs, U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola (R-Ind.) voted for a pair of health care bills this week that seek to solve the problem. The first will provide new health coverage options for millions, and the second seeks to reform the health care system to keep premiums down and care available to all Americans by keeping doctors in business.

On Tuesday, the U.S. House of Representatives considered the “Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2005,” which would allow for the creation of Association Health Plans. AHPs allow small businesses to band together through associations and purchase quality health care for workers and their families at a lower cost. The House approved this legislation on a bipartisan 263-165 vote, with Chocola voting for the bill.

“Association Health Plans would allow small businesses like family restaurants or local hardware stores to pool together with similar businesses and buy health insurance at group rates for their employees,” said Chocola. “Small businesses would be able to get the best deal for their workers, just as large corporations do. They would have more choices and access to lower cost plans. And with the savings, small businesses will be able to insure and hire more people.”

On Wednesday, the House considered the “Help Efficient, Accessible, Low-Cost, Timely Healthcare (HEALTH) Act of 2005,” also known as Medical Liability Reform. This legislation safeguards patients’ access to care and will ensure that more doctors stay in business and are not driven from practicing medicine because of skyrocketing medical malpractice costs. Chocola supported the “HEALTH Act” when it passed the House by a vote of 230-194, with two voting Present.

“Frivolous lawsuits and skyrocketing insurance rates are driving doctors out of business and threatening access to care across America,” said Chocola. “Many physicians, hospitals, and other health care providers are severely limiting their practices or are simply unable to practice medicine. The HEALTH Act puts in place a reasonable solution to the medical malpractice mess – protecting both patients who have been injured and the doctors who treat them.”

Chocola has voted for legislation similar to both of these bills four times during his time in Congress and is hopeful the Senate will consider both of these bills soon.

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